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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

New Figure 1 comprises descriptive labels for every block illustrated in the figure.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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Remarks

In amended Figure 1, descriptive labels for every block illustrated in the figure have been added. In particular:

block 1 is labeled as "ANTENNA";
 block 2 is labeled as "READ/WRITE DEVICE";
 block 3 is labeled as "PULSE INJECTION CIRCUIT";
 block 4 is labeled as "AMPLITUDE MEASURING CIRCUIT";
 block 5 is labeled as "MICROPROCESSOR";
 block 8 is labeled as "TRANSPONDER".

The descriptive labels find support in the application as originally filed, page 2, lines 23-29.

In the specification, the amended abstract is written in sentence form, in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b) and with item 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 7-8, 11-30 remain in this application. Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 15-30 are new. Claims 7, 15, 21, 24-30 are independent claims. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

Original claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimmermann et al. (3,836,842). Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Zimmermann et al. in view of Frecksa (6,693,512), while original claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Zimmermann et al. in view of Karr (5,661,470).

Original claims 10-14 were only objected to, apparently as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the original claim 10, which was originally dependent on claim 7.

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Claims 11-14 are still dependent on amended claim 7. The relationship between claims 11-14 and amended claim 7 is supported by the specification as filed, page 3, line 14 to page 4, line 17.

The prior art is silent about a method for detecting the presence of a transponder in the proximity of a device provided with an antenna, comprising the steps of generating a series of pulses, feeding the antenna with the pulses, detecting the damped oscillations of the antenna and determining the presence/absence of the transponder on the basis of the characteristics of the oscillations, wherein the detecting step comprises counting the number of the damped oscillations whose amplitude exceeds a preset threshold, the number being lower if the transponder is in the vicinity of the antenna with respect to when the transponder is not present.

Therefore, Applicant believes that the amended claim 7, and the claims 8, 11-14 dependent therefrom, are in an allowable state.

A new independent device claim 15 has been introduced and is based on originally filed claim 1, in which the features of original claim 10 have been added in terms of device features. Support for the amendments is found in original claims 1 and 10 and in the specification, page 3, lines 14-23.

New claims 16-20 include further advantageous structural features of the device taken from original claims 2-6.

Claim 21 corresponds to original claim 7, in which the features of original claim 11 have been further recited. Dependent claims 22 and 23 are based on original claims 8 and 9, respectively.

Claims 25, 27 and 29 also correspond to original claim 7, in which the features of original claims 12, 13 and 14 have been further recited, respectively.

Claims 24, 26, 28 and 30 are based on original claim 1, in which the features of original claims 11, 12, 13 and 14 have been respectively added in terms of device features.

It is noted that, in claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 the expression "*whose amplitude exceeds a preset threshold*" has been added. This wording was not literally present in original claims 1, 7, 12 and 14 from which new claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 derive.

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However, from a reading of the specification it is apparent that when the number of damped oscillations is detected/counted, this number refers to the oscillations whose amplitude exceeds a preset threshold (see page 3, lines 14-21, and page 4, lines 4-13).

The subject-matter of the independent claims hereby submitted is aimed at solving the problem of determining the presence of a transponder in the proximity of a device provided with an antenna. Since such subject matter is neither disclosed in nor rendered obvious by the prior art, applicant respectfully believes that the subject-matter of the new claims is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl.: Replacement Sheet, Figure 1.